Standing Committee on Natural Calamity

*279. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether matters regarding natural calamities vis-a-vis rescue, relief and rehabilitation measures are looked after only by the Ministry of Agriculture;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to set up a Standing Committee on Natural Calamities to look after the related matters especially as they have in the Ministries of Railways, Health, etc. for dealing with similar issues;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the steps taken by Government to equip its machinery to meet the eventualities whenever a natural calamity strikes?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (d) According to the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC), in the Ministry of Agriculture, is the nodal agency for coordination of relief measures necessitated by natural calamities, other than epidemics. The basic responsibility for undertaking relief and rehabilitation measures is of the State Government concerned. The role of Central Government is only supportive. The concerned Ministries/Departments provide the required assistance in their respective sectors directly to the State Government as also repair and restore the damaged infrastructure facilities under them. The coordination and monitoring of the Government of India's intervention is achieved through the National Crisis Management Committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary and consisting of the Secretaries of the Ministries/Departments concerned and the Crisis Management Group headed by the Central Relief Commissioner in the DAC.

In view of the above institutional meachanism already in place, there is no proposal to set up a Standing Committee on Natural Calamities.

Failure of Satellite to warn against Cyclone

*280. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IRS-P4 satellite had failed to warn Meteorological authorities against the cyclone in Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any investigation has been done on this aspect; and

(d) the steps initiated for rectifying the snag?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONER'S WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir. IRS-P4 (Oceansat-1) satellite is meant for applications other than warning cyclones such as providing the biological and physical parameters of the Ocean. IRS-P4 has been working well and carrying out its intended functions. Warning on the cyclone in Orissa was provided by the relevant satellite system viz. INSAT system, through India Meteorological Department.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Scarcity of Milk and Milk products in Orissa

1524. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the severe scarcity of milk and milk products in the State of Orissa;

(b) whether there is a sharp decline in the milk production in that State;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof;

(d) whether there is also scarcity of fodders for cattles in that State; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to remove the scarcity?